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BRIDGES, GOOD AND BAD.

The road commission in Muhlenberg county has rounded out a busy week, replacing wooden bridges and culverts washed out by the recent heavy rains. When he took the census of missing bridges he found that thirty five of them were on the stray list. That he enrolled them all and got them back in their proper places inside of a week shows that Muhlenberg county's road commissioner is a man of energy and is "on to his job."

While he was looking for lost bridges the commissioner also made a note of such bridges as had not been destroyed by the floods. According to the Greenville Record, he found that "there was not a concrete, steel or tile bridge injured in the least and the roads were not damaged at such points, either, the water being carried along without obstruction or washouts." Evidently if there had been more concrete, steel and tile bridges in the county the commissioner would not have had so much work to do and the expense to the county would have been correspondingly smaller.

There should be a lesson in this report of the road commissioner for the Fiscal Court of Muhlenberg county, and for the Fiscal Courts of other counties as well. It is high time that all counties should discontinue the industry of building wooden bridges. A concrete bridge or culvert is practically indestructible; wooden bridges wear out quickly and are easily washed away. Even if they withstand the pressure of the floods they require frequent repairs and are so often in need of "patching up" as to be a source of hazard for man and beast.

The difference in the expense of construction is by no means so great as to make iron, tile and concrete bridges and culverts of prohibitive cost. Experience has demonstrated that it pays to build for permanence when making roads and erecting bridges. This is a fact that does not seem to be understood by many of our Fiscal Courts—so much the worse for the counties they represent and for the pauper yeomen who pay the taxes—Sunday Courier-Journal.

KENTUCKY lost 9.5 per cent. in the value of its farm products last year, compared with 1909. Our total was \$110,731,000. Texas is the banner agricultural state, its products being worth \$364,110,000, while the value for the whole country was \$8,924,000,000.

The new Secretary of War, Henry L. Stimson, need not be discouraged by his little military experience. England's great War Minister, William Pitt, had only the experience of a lieutenant. Carnot, the organizer of victory in the French Revolution, had just as little, and our Edwin M. Stanton none at all. Besides, Secretary Stimson is not likely to be put to the test by either foreign or domestic war during this pacific national administration.

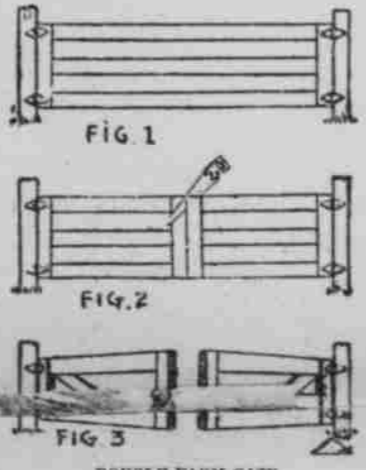
The American people are at last arousing themselves to the need of good roads, and the astonishing but gratifying statement is made by Logan Waller Page, director of the office of public roads of the U. S. department of agriculture that \$1,000,000 a day will be spent this year on American highways. Of this amount Kentucky's part is estimated at \$2,500,000, which, compared to New York's \$8,000,000 is small, but ranks well up with the average, showing that our people are getting their eyes opened, and even greater things may be expected right along.

LOOK OUT FOR DODDER!

Seed Imported From Chile's Daddy Mixed With Harmful Weed Product. The United States department of agriculture announces that since July 1, 1910, twenty-three lots of clover seed of probable Chilean origin aggregating 370,000 pounds have been imported into the United States. In all of these shipments two kinds of dodder seed characteristic of Chilean red clover seed are present. At a normal rate of seeding these shipments are sufficient to seed approximately 40,000 acres, and at this rate of seeding an average of approximately 450 dodder seeds would be sown on each square rod. The sowing of this Chilean seed means that the clover crop on a considerable proportion of the area on which it is seeded will be destroyed by dodder, and farmers should be on their guard against purchasing this seed. Unfortunately most of these importations have gone into the southern part of the clover producing region where this dodder will undoubtedly prove disastrous. This Chilean clover seed is itself especially fine looking seed, being dark colored and approximately 50 per cent larger in size than ordinary red clover seed produced in the United States. It will therefore doubtless receive a ready sale on account of its fine appearance.

TO HANG A DOUBLE GATE.

Directions For Making So It Will Swing True and Latch Properly. There are many farmers who prefer to use a double gate, and yet there are comparatively few who are successful in hanging these double gates so that they swing true or latch properly, says the Kansas Farmer. The drawing herewith indicates a method by which this may be accomplished with very little trouble and absolutely accurate results. Build the gate all in one structure and nail the crosspieces in place in the middle. Prop the gate into position between the two posts and attach the hinges to both ends. Be sure that the hinges are large enough and strong enough to support the gate when in use. It is better to have them too large than too small. After the gate has been attached to the hinges at both ends saw it in two, as shown in the drawing, and the work is done. It may be desirable to place the middle crosspieces which will be the ends of the half gates a little distance apart and saw out the boards between in order that they may not bind in case of wet weather. This will simply require two sawings instead of one. If diagonals are necessary they may be attached either before or after the gate is sawed, but they should always be put on in the manner shown in the lower drawing. Have the upper end of the diagonal attached near the upper hinge, as this is the only way it can be put on to absolutely prevent sagging. If the diagonal is reversed and the upper end placed at the other end of the gate it encourages sagging by its faulty construction as well as by its added weight. A new farm gate of whatever type adds materially to the appearance and value of the farm home.



DOUBLE FARM GATE.
(From Kansas Farmer.)

To be obliged to make a poor farm pay is need for training, for when you get a better one you know the trick.

Live Stock Notes.

Wheat, bran and oats make strong bones in the calf. A poorly nourished, stunted two-year-old filly should not be bred. Don't leave a horse heated by driving to stand exposed in a cold wind. Too many farmers sacrifice quality for more size in the selection of a ram. It never pays to keep old worn-out animals except as a matter of sentiment. It is well to cull very closely in cattle, swine and poultry. There is nothing like milk for making hogs out of pigs. It is their natural food, and when used with a grain ration will develop pork more rapidly than any other feed. It pays to keep cows just for the pigs. Do not feed pigs too much corn while they are young. Corn is a fat producing food and does not accelerate growth. Feed shorts tankage, shorts and bran in sufficient quantity to cause rapid growth.

The Wyoming experiment station, after repeated trials, concludes that corn and the bran or Scotch barley when fed with alfalfa were about equal in value for mutton production. Barley in this test proved to be a shade the better. Twenty-seven per cent less alfalfa and 23 per cent less grain were required where barley replaced either in a ration. The Louisville Times heads an article "Ham Poisons Six." When any six men eat a ham they are likely to think they are poisoned, or perhaps they became sick when they got the check.

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The House of Representatives has ordered an investigation of the Steel Trust with a view of ascertaining whether it is operating in violation of the Sherman law, though the Supreme Court decision in the Standard Oil case leaves it pretty clear that the corporation is not causing "an unreasonable restraint of trade." It controls about 55 per cent. of the producing capacity of the country. It wishes to be as near monopoly as it can without violating the law, and to this end Mr. Gary announced recently that it did not wish to increase its percentage of the country's producing capacity. That it has a large influence upon prices is unquestionable, but if put on trial it could prove that on more than one occasion the competition of the independent concerns had compelled it to reduce its prices. Upon this showing it would insist it be acquitted of the charge of monopoly.

Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont of New York is lending aid to a back to the land movement that is, to say the least, unique and interesting. She selected twenty young women from many applicants and has placed them on her farm, Brookholt, on Long Island. They dress in bloomers, broad brimmed hats and boys' shoes and are to do all the work on the place, including wood-chopping and caring for the horses. They are to be given thorough training in household duties, and when the time comes will take up plowing, planting and the care of the soil. Like "farmling," they will have an opportunity to purchase small tracts from their benefactress. This plan may work all right awhile, but the chances are that most of these girls will have a man around the premises before many moons.

The 1910 crop records have been compiled, and they are interesting. California takes the honors from Minnesota in the production of barley, New York from Iowa in the production of hay, Iowa from Illinois in the raising of oats. The two leading states and the percentage of the total crop which they produced are as follows: Corn—Illinois, 13.3; Iowa, 11. Winter wheat—Kansas, 13.12; Indiana, 8. Spring wheat—Minnesota, 40.7; South Dakota, 20.2. Oats—Iowa, 10.1; Illinois, 15.1. Barley—California, 26.8; Minnesota, 16.6. Rye—Pennsylvania, 19.6; Michigan, 16.2. Buckwheat—New York, 41.8; Pennsylvania, 32.8. Flaxseed—North Dakota, 41.8; Minnesota, 25.1. Rice—Louisiana, 52.1; Texas, 35.7. Potatoes—New York, 13.4; Michigan, 10.4. Hay—New York, 10.4; Pennsylvania, 7.3. Tobacco—Kentucky, 10.4; North Carolina, 10.2. Cotton—Texas, 27.5; Georgia, 15.3.

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